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COMMENTS:
Attached please find proposed additional amendments to claim 1 respectfully submitted for
your consideration.

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Proposed claim amendments:

1. (currently amended)

A method of operating a profile group managing server for managing a computer information

database comprising:

      A. determining, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of

groups for a set of computers, in which each node is a group level and a top level is a root, based

on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected

computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of

hardware and software configuration, hot fixes, user defined entries and performance data;

      B. specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or

more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping

criteria wherein said secondary grouping criteria may be unrelated to said primary grouping

criteria, and including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the

selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary

grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria

and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between a selected high value and a

selected low value,

           wherein said ranges are inclusive and ~~include the high value, the low value and~~

~~values there between; wherein said values there between~~ include all values that are less

than the high value, but greater than the low value, or m~~ay~~ also include

the high value or m~~ay~~ also include the low value, or

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wherein said ranges are inclusive and only include values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

C. further specifying, in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

D. receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from [[a plurality]]the set of computers;

E. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following;

extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings and the secondary groupings,

querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table,

and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record,

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if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned;

and

F. manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein one or more table records includes secondary grouping values set to NULL.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the respective values associated with the primary grouping criteria are ranges and the step of determining if the extracted data correspond to the respective values further includes determining if the corresponding extracted data falls below a high limit and above a low limit of the primary grouping ranges.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the values associated with the secondary grouping criteria are ranges and the step of determining if the extracted data correspond to the values further includes determining if the corresponding extracted data of